

SGT Monica R. Garreau



Luke Spencer (left) and Scott Easton share a “cammo pack” while painting their faces during Hawaii’s Annual Cub Scout Schofield Days.

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

Hawaii’s Cub Scouts Learn Soldier Skills

RAPPELING, crossing rope bridges and applying camouflage were some of the challenges met by over 800 Cub Scouts who attended the Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Air Assault School during the annual Cub Scout Schofield Days.

“It was really fun,” said Max Cone, a 10-year-old scout. “I liked the mud pit and ropes the best.”

He said he wasn’t afraid

because the safety ropes attached to the bridge allowed the kids to safely lean forward and back without falling into the pit.

The air-assault school instructors monitoring the event ensured the Scouts got the most out of their time.

“I had a lot of fun with the kids,” said PFC Gary Strickland of Company C, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment. “The rest of my company had time off, but I’d rather have been out here. It was cool for me to teach the youngsters about the Army, let them have a little fun and spend time with their

parents.”

The events provided a good learning experience for the boys, said Shawn White, one of many parents who attended the event.

“The survival training kept the scouts engaged because they talked about things they

can use when they go camping,” said White. “It was great how the soldiers involved the scouts and let them do hands-on stuff, instead of just doing demonstrations.”

All the scouts participating in the event earned a badge. One boy said the training helped him become a better scout.

“I learned a lot of things about survival,” said 10-year-old Koa Gibson. “I had a lot of fun and I can’t wait to come back next year.” — *SGT Monica R. Garreau, 17th Public Affairs Team*



Schofield air-assault instructor SSG Robert Burgos helps Brandon Moran step off the platform of the 45-degree jump tower.

Saudi Arabia

ROE Training for ARCENT Soldiers

"TO shoot or not to shoot" was the question soldiers from Army Forces Central Command in Saudi Arabia had to answer during training on the theater of operation's standing rules of engagement.



SGT Jenette Beasley (right) demonstrates to SGT Victor Consiglio of the 163rd MP Co. that her M-16A2 rifle is clear following the ROE training.

The training, sponsored by ARCENT-SA's Command Judge Advocate office and the 153rd Military Police Company, reinforced recent classroom instruction on the rules of engagement under which the command operates.

"The rules of engagement are directives that authorize armed forces personnel and Department of Defense civilians to use force, including deadly force," said MAJ Matt Myers, the ARCENT-SA command judge advocate.

"The rules of engagement allow personnel to protect themselves, other U.S. military members, U.S. citizens, and any other people or property that the commander designates," Myers said.

He added that the rules also direct soldiers to avoid injuring innocent civilians, and that they limit the amount of collateral damage that can be caused while responding to threats.

The training included such different scenarios as reacting to crowds outside a secured perimeter and how to handle convoy security.

"The soldiers demonstrated their ability to handle their weapons safely and clear the weapons of ammunition," said Myers. "I'm confident this training proved to them that they are well trained and ready to apply the rules of engagement today." — *MAJ Chris Garver, ARCENT-SA Public Affairs Office*

Camp Denali, Alaska

Alaska Guard's Buddy Platoon Graduates

THIRTY-ONE Alaska Army National Guard soldiers participating in the state's "buddy platoon" program recently received their distinctive blue infantry cords at a Fort Benning, Ga., ceremony.

LTC Peter Savage, commander of the Alaska Guard's Retention and Recruitment office, said the buddy platoon system allows Alaska soldiers to go through 16 weeks of basic and advanced infantry training as a team rather than just as individuals.

"The buddy platoon concept came about because many of our soldiers are from rural Alaska," said Savage. "Army basic training is difficult enough for anyone, but it can be particularly difficult if you are from isolated areas of Alaska."



SSG Mac Metcalfe

Members of the Alaska National Guard's buddy platoon graduate from infantry training at Fort Benning.

The buddy platoon allows soldiers to draw on each other's strengths and help each other through difficult moments, participants explained.

"The first month of training was hard," said PV1 Kane Tangiegak. "I was homesick. But once I got focused, things went better."

PV1 Chris Matchian agreed that having people he knew and identified with sharing the experience helped him through the training.

CPT Adam Lewis, commander of Fort Benning's Infantry Training Brigade's Company D, said he thought the buddy platoon system was good for the soldiers.

"The infantry course is considered by many to be one of the Army's most physically challenging and disciplined training schools," said Lewis. "It helps when you can meet this challenge surrounded by friends." — *SSG Mac Metcalfe, Alaska Army National Guard Retention Office*



For the first time since 1945, members of The U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own," performed in a theater of foreign operations as they journeyed through Southwest Asia on a weeklong tour. The Army Band group nicknamed "DownRange" opened the 90-minute show for hundreds of soldiers with top-40 hits. The band's last wartime foray abroad took place during World War II, when it marched in a May 14, 1945, victory parade on the Champs Elysée in Paris.